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A confirmation of the specific relations of *Cuculus saturatus insulindae* Hartert

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Received 25 September 1981

Becking (1975) and Wells & Becking (1975) invoked details of plumage, beak morphology, egg-shell appearance and ultrastructure, vocalisations and brood parasitism to show that *C. lepidus,* a small *Cuculus* resident in montane forests from Sumatra and peninsular Malaysia to the Lesser Sunda islands, is a diminutive Oriental Cuckoo *C. saturatus* and not, as widely assumed, a subspecies of *C. poliocephalus.* The eggs and brood hosts of a similar Bornean cuckoo, *insulindae,* are unknown but the few specimens examined in the above study shared critical morphology and plumage characters with both *lepidus* and northern subspecies of *C. saturatus. C. insulindae* was tentatively transferred to *saturatus* after taking into account the additio nalevidence of vocalizations commonly heard on Mount Kinabalu, Sabah, in February-March (Smythies 1959) and an evidently similar sound described on the label of a specimen from Kinabalu in the collection of the Sarawak Museum, Kuching.

During a visit to Kinabalu National Park 28-30 March 1975 I was able to satisfy myself that these vocalisations were one and the same. A *lepidus*-like call was heard repeatedly in lower montane forest at around 1500 m altitude. It was tape-recorded and the calling bird attracted to a play-back proved, as guessed, to be a small *Cuculus* fitting the description of *insulindae.* In April 1978 identical calls were heard at around 1300 m on Mount Mulu, Sarawak, about 180 miles SW of Kinabalu.

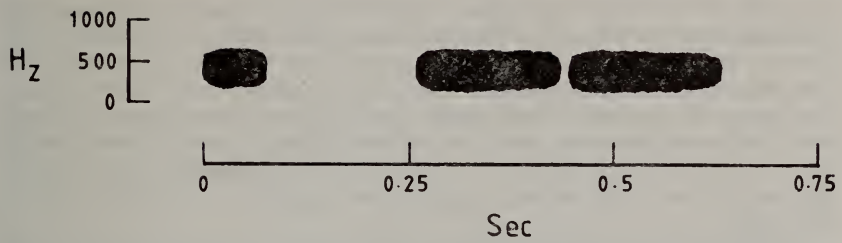

Fig. 1. Wide band-width sonogram of a call of *Cuculus insulindae* from Mount Kinabalu, Sabah.

A section of the Kinabalu tape was sonographed in wide-band mode (300 cps), and the sonogram of one sample call is drawn in Figure 1. It is substantially like that of *lepidus*, and utterly different from any authenticated call of *poliocephalus* (Wells & Becking 1975). The interval between the main energy pulses of notes one and two is 190 ms (200-230 ms in *lepidus*), the duration of the individual second and third notes is 170-200 ms (140-160 ms in *lepidus*), and their main energy is concentrated at 500 Hz (510-540 Hz in *lepidus*). A steady rate of 27-28 calls per minute compares with 21-23 by *lepidus* in Java and 24-28 by *C.s. saturatus* in Nepal. It differs from *lepidus* only in that note one is pitched even with the rest of the phrase, as in *C.s. horsfieldi* (Wells & Becking 1975, plate 22), and the interval between notes two and three is briefer, deviations slight enough to be treated as dialectic only.

Vocalisations therefore support the morphological evidence for identifying *insulindae* as a further subspecies of *Cuculus saturatus*.

Acknowledgement: I am grateful to Dr. J. L. Gulledge who made the sonogram at the Library of Natural Sounds, Ornithology Laboratory, Cornell University.

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Behavioural and distributional notes on some unusual birds of a lower montane cloud forest in Peru

by Theodore A. Parker, III and Susan Allen Parker

Received 19 September 1981

From 30 August to 15 September 1977 we camped at 1100m in lower montane forest along the recently constructed Bagua-Pomacochas-Rioja highway, near "Afluente," about 80 road km northwest of Rioja, Dpto. San Martín. Parker & Parker (1980) give a description of this locality and information on the rarest species found by us there, *Xenerpestes singularis*.